

NR 195: Water Management and Sustainability in the Netherlands
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated by Kris Stepenuck January 19, 2018

What is covered in the \$2,141 fee?

- Transportation within the Netherlands, all housing, all admission fees, and the course fee for the Water Footprint course that we will take one day, will be covered. In addition, two group dinners will be covered, and, as noted 7 breakfasts. Separately, students will need to pay summer tuition fees (30% cheaper than usual) for 3 credits, airfare to/from Amsterdam (AMS), textbook (~\$30 - *The Dutch and Their Delta*), and some meals (more details below).

What is the application process?

- (Note, this answer has been updated since the meeting.)
 1. There is an online application posted here: <http://learn.uvm.edu/study-abroad/study-abroad-programs/netherlands-water-management-and-sustainability/>
 2. Once you apply, I (Kris) will send you a secondary survey that has questions specific to this trip (the application online is generic for all travel study courses).
 3. At the same time as sending you that secondary questionnaire, I will schedule a short (10-15 minute) meeting with you so that Holden, Carolyn and I can check in with you about the trip. The earliest of those meetings will be scheduled to happen early in the spring semester (week of Jan. 15). We will begin accepting participants soon after the first meetings take place.
 4. Once you are accepted, you need to pay the \$500 deposit to secure your place in the course. Please only pay this after you receive word that you have been accepted.

How many students can attend?

- We are anticipating 10-14 students will attend.

How do students get to and from the Amsterdam airport (called Schiphol)?

- One of the instructors (Kris, Holden or Carolyn) will meet each student at the airport on May 22 in the morning when flights arrive. We will have a van to transport you to the hotel where we will begin the class sessions in early afternoon.
- Similarly, we will bring you back to the airport on Sunday, June 3 from the hotel where we will stay on our last night in the country as a group.
- You are responsible for finding your own flights from the US to the Netherlands, and your own transport to and from your departure/arrival airport in the US. A recommended flight searching website is Google Flights. Use the code AMS to search for flights to/from Amsterdam. If you are departing from the UVM area, the two airports that will likely be cheapest to fly to/from are Montreal (YUL), and Boston (BOS).

What's the daily schedule going to be like?

- Each day will consist of some biking, a tour or visit to a water management or sustainable practices site, and a debrief session.

You will have the opportunity to learn from Dutch professionals about the water management and/or sustainability during each activity or site visit in which we participate. The activities range from visiting a solar bike path, to reclaimed land from the sea, to massive movable dams, to calculating a water footprint, to sustainable agriculture and wastewater treatment for energy production – and beyond.

In the daily debrief session you will be asked engage in dialogue about the event, activity or location visited, and share your thoughts/insights as related to one of three “legs” of the sustainability stool: economics, environmental, or social- as it applies to the site visited or activity we do that day. You will also have responsibility to keep a daily journal with reflections; sometimes you will have directed questions to answer, other times it will just be a free journaling opportunity for you. There will be some reading to be done to help orient you to the different places, activities, and issues about which you will learning.

And, of course, each day will include three meals, and breaks for snacks! Some days we will visit local grocery stores along our route to buy breakfast, snacks, and lunch supplies. We will eat at restaurants in the evenings. I anticipate food costs to be about \$32/day when breakfast is not included and \$22 when breakfast is included with the hotel costs. There will be 5 days without breakfast included with the hotel, and 7 days with breakfast included if we can book at the hotels at which I have inquired (I cannot book rooms until the class fills).

How easy is it to meet dietary restrictions in the Netherlands?

- In grocery stores (which we will regularly visit to get lunch foods, and some breakfast foods), allergens are listed in bold on packages. The writing is in Dutch, so we will work with anyone with dietary restrictions in advance of the trip to ensure we and you know what words you need to look for when making purchases. Also, my sister-in-law (who is from there) let me know that it is required for restaurants to list allergen information on their menus. So, she felt it would be fine to address dietary needs at the restaurants too.

Do the bikes we will be riding have racks?

- Yes. They come with a rack to which 2 bike bags (panniers) can be attached.

What is it like to bike in the Netherlands?

- The Dutch are very into bicycling; so much that they have literal bike superhighways (<https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2017/06/cruising-a-superhighway-built-for-bikes/531246/>).
- As a bicyclist, you need to be aware for mopeds and electric bikes, both of which are allowed on the bike paths (called a fietspad in Dutch – a bike is a fiets).

Will we need to bike all of our luggage with us?

- No. We'll have a van to move our gear except for things like lunch, first aid/bike fix it supplies, and rain gear. Carolyn and Holden will take turns driving for us.

What about drugs and alcohol? Are they allowed?

- I ask that you avoid use of any drugs or alcohol on the trip. Everyone needs to be able to bike 1.5 -3.5 hours per day, to be alert and interacting during site visits, and to engage in the debrief session each evening. The days will be long, and you cannot be impaired by drugs or alcohol to fully engage in the course.

What is the hotel/rooming situation?

- Rooms will be shared by 2 to 3 people, depending on the gender composition of the group of participating students and the types of rooms the hotels have available.
- Roommates will rotate daily throughout the trip.
- Rooms will be single gender.
- Students will be asked to identify their gender and preferred gender with which to room.